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TWO FIGURES IN THE SNIPER'S NEST?

The newly discovered Charles Bronson film of the JFK assassination indicates that a second person was present in the 6th-floor nest of the "lone" assassin. This obliges us to review again the eye-witness testimony collected by the Warren Commission, but rejected by it, that tends to support this indication.

A. Carolyn Walther-

Mrs. Walther told the FBI that she saw two men in the southeast corner window of an upper floor of the Depository a few minutes before the motorcade came by. She said one of them was holding a rifle and pointing it at the street below. She thought the man with the rifle was a guard. She said he was wearing a white shirt and had blond or light hair. Walther said she saw a second man to the left of the rifleman, partly obscured, wearing a brown suit coat. (Commission Exhibit 2086).

Mrs. Walther was not deposed by the Warren Commission. She was not interviewed by the Select Committee.

B. Arnold Rowland-

Rowland was standing with his wife at the west entrance of the Dallas County Records Building on Houston Street, about 150 feet from the Depository. At 12:15 by the Hertz clock on the Depository roof, he saw a man standing about 3 to 5 feet back inside the window at the southwest corner of the Depository on the 6th floor. Rowland said the man was holding a scope-sighted rifle in the port-arms position. He said he also saw at the same time a second man, "a Negro", leaning against the ledge of the southeast window (2H 170). Rowland assumed the armed man was a security guard. The rifleman shortly disappeared from view and Rowland did not see him again. The "Negro" man stayed there until 5 or 6 minutes before the assassination.

Rowland's observations were so challenging to the Warren Commission's basic conception of the case against Oswald that it devoted two pages of the Report (WR 251-52) to discrediting him. The main point the Commission makes against him is that he did not mention the second man until March 1964, when he testified before them. But Rowland insists that he told the FBI about the second man when he was interviewed by them the day after the assassination. He says the FBI told him to forget it (2H 183-85).

Rowland's claim is supported by the testimony of Deputy Sheriff Roger

Craig, who told the Warren Commission that Rowland had immediately sought out the authorities to tell them he had seen two men on the 6th floor (16H 953).

Rowland's claim is even backed up by the Commission itself. On page 251 the Report says Rowland failed to mention the second man until March. Nevertheless, two paragraphs later, it quotes Deputy Sheriff Craig's claim that "about 10 minutes after the assassination" Rowland told him "he saw two men on the sixth floor of the Book Depository Building over there", and that one of them had a rifle with a telescopic sight (WR 251).

C. Lillian Mooneyham-

Mrs. Mooneyham was interviewed by the FBI on January 8, 1964. She told the FBI she watched the JFK motorcade from the courthouse across from the Depository. She said that "4 1/2 to 5 minutes following the shots [...] she looked up towards the 6th floor of the TSBD and observed the figure of a man standing in the 6th floor window behind some cardboard boxes", standing back from the window and "looking out" (24H 531). A Dallas policeman, M. L. Baker, encountered Oswald in the lunchroom on the second floor of the Depository only 90 seconds after the shots were fired. The man seen by Mooneyham "4 1/2 to 5 minutes" after the shooting therefore could not have been Oswald. (Note: The sniper's nest was not discovered by the police until about 40 minutes after the shooting).

D. Dillard and Powell Photographs-

Dr. Bob R. Hunt, photo-enhancement expert of the University of Arizona, reported the findings of the HSCA's photographic panel with reference to two photos taken right after the shooting (September 25, 1978). Press photographer Tom Dillard (HSCA Exhibit JFK F-153) took his photo seconds after the final shot, after the alleged rifleman had already fled the window. The Powell photo was taken some two to three minutes later. (Both photos show the face of the Depository). Dr. Hunt concluded that "somebody or something moved boxes around in that room" in the minutes after the assassination, the same time during which Oswald was encountering Officer Baker and Mrs. Reid on the second floor.

Hunt told the HSCA that the change in the configuration of the boxes visible in the Dillard and Powell photographs gave the appearance of "boxes rising up in between" other boxes in the window, just as if someone, in the moments after the shooting, was setting up the sniper's nest which was to be found by police later.

F. Judge Bert Griffin-

Judge Griffin of Cleveland was assistant counsel to the Warren Commission. One of his tasks was to follow the search for fingerprints in the sniper's nest. The Warren Report pretends to be confident of establishing Oswald's fingerprints alone in the nest. But the reality was different, for as Griffin would later complain:

"The investigation of the fingerprints was so inadequate, there could have been a football team up there with Oswald and the Commission would not have discovered it." (Source: Griffin to D. Lifson, taped interview).

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